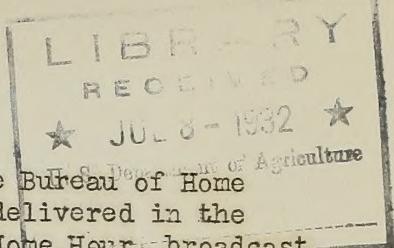


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HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR



A radio interview between Miss Ruth Van Deman of the Bureau of Home Economics and Dr. E. A. Back of the Bureau of Entomology, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC stations, Tuesday, May 24, 1932.

MISS VAN DEMAN: How do you do, Everybody:

You remember, last week, Dr. E. A. Back was here with me at the microphone to give you information on how to keep moths from damaging your woolens and furs. And he's here again today. For many years as an entomologist for the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Back has studied the habits of this destructive pest and the control measures that he has worked out if applied in homes, and stores, and factories the country over would mean a saving of enormous sums each year. Dr. Back himself refuses to put a definite figure of so many dollars on the damage done by clothes moths each year. But the other day I saw it estimated at \$400,000,000.

Last week, there was so much to say about controlling moths in clothing that we hardly touched the upholstered furniture question. But once moths get into an overstuffed chair or a sofa with a covering of woolen tapestry, or mohair, and it may be goodbye to the lovely cover. Moreover, as I understand it, upholstered furniture in daily use may become badly infested by moths. Am I right, Dr. Back?

DR. BACK: Yes, Miss Van Deman, it's generally while clothes are put away that moths do their damage, but the overstuffed chair or the davenport you use everyday may become badly infested with moths, right under your nose.

Here again it's the little worms, or larvae, that do the damage. They hatch from eggs laid by moth millers, and as soon as they hatch they begin to eat the food they like -- woollen fibers, or feathers, or sometimes even the hair filling in the furniture. The moth millers we see flitting about deposit their eggs in the pile of the fabric covering; or sometimes they crawl down between the cushions, or into crevices along the seams, and lay their eggs.

Manufacturers are doing a great deal to protect their furniture from moth damage by the methods and materials they use in construction. But the owner of a piece of upholstered furniture with a covering of wool or mohair needs to take simple precautions.

MISS VAN DEMAN: Dr. Back, do you mind if I interrupt? What must we do to keep moths from upholstered furniture?

DR. BACK: Well, for one thing, brush it or go over it with a vacuum cleaner very often. This removes or kills the moth eggs and worms. And if you have slip covers on your furniture, take them off every now and then and go over the surface of the upholstery, especially along the seams and down in the cracks and crevices. Moths like to work under slip covers.

MISS VAN DEMAN: But, Dr. Back, I'd think that this brushing and cleaning with a vacuum machine would only prevent the moths from eating the pile on the surface of the upholstery fabric?

DR. BACK: Yes, that's true, Miss Van Deman. Moth larvae do sometimes get

underneath and cut the woolen threads of the warp, and do great damage. When moths get inside upholstered furniture, you must apply a liquid spray or fumigate. May be you have a local firm that makes a business of fumigating furniture, or if not you can do it yourself.

MISS VAN DEMAN: How would you suggest, Dr. Back, that a person go about fumigating upholstered furniture at home? It sounds complicated.

DR. BACK: Well, it isn't a bit, but it's too long a story to tell you all the good fumigants to use. The simplest way is to put the furniture in a room not constantly in use and sprinkle three or four pounds of paradichlorobenzene over the covers and down around the cushions. Then wrap each chair or sofa in a heavy blanket or canvas and let stand during warm weather for about a week. This isn't a perfect treatment, but is a cheap, safe one of real practical value. It is best to do it during warm summer weather, or when the temperature of the room is 70° F. or above.

Then another way is to spray the furniture with a liquid. One of the oil sprays such as you can purchase at the drug store is good if it consists largely of a light mineral oil and is forcefully applied. It will kill practically all the moth worms on or beneath the covers, and will even kill the worms hiding in the stuffing if sprayed on with considerable pressure.

MISS VAN DEMAN: Yes, I was wondering about the sprays for moths. Dr. Back, that suggestion you gave last week for fumigating the furniture and clothes and rugs and other woolens altogether in a small room or a large closet strikes me as being especially easy and practical. First, clean everything as clean as can be, and then sprinkle around on papers on the floor 8 to 10 pounds of napthalene flakes or paradichlorobenzene crystals and close the room up tight. What could be simpler?

Thank you, Dr. Back, for coming over again and telling us how to keep down the national bill of damages by clothes moths.

Now perhaps there are listeners who didn't hear the Household Calendar last week and may want to write for Dr. Back's bulletins. The titles are "Clothes Moths and their Control", and "The Control of Moths in Upholstered Furniture". They are both Farmers' Bulletins free from the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington as long as the supply lasts.

Now next week, Miss Mabel Stienbarger of the Bureau of Home Economics will be here with me to give directions for canning the early fruits and vegetables. Goodbye for this time.